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ABSTRACTS FROM THESESDEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND 1987-88

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Abstracts from two M.A. theses in archaeology completed during the period 1987, early 1988 are given below. Copies are held in the Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, where they may be consulted in the Piddington Room. Xerox copies may be made available through the Main Library, Auckland University, at cost, plus GST and postage. These are subject to the usual restrictions applying to theses, namely the understanding that their use is for private research and not publication.

Pamela M. Russell, Women in Upper Palaeolithic Europe. 1987. Anthropology Department, Auckland University. 2 page abstract; x, 225 pp., 39 plates (37 colour), appendix.

Little or no research has been carried out until recently on possible roles of women in European Upper Palaeolithic society - a society widely assumed in previous reconstructions to have been male-orientated and based on hunting. In this thesis the scattered comments, inferences and conclusions expressed in the existing literature concerning these women are drawn together, and considered in relation to newly-emerging views on gender in archaeology and the interpretation of an ever-increasing body of evidence. In particularly a critical analysis is made of the reasoning behind the usual assumption that the first European females were in a subordinate position relative to the males; and ethnographically-attested alternative interpretations are seriously explored. This leads to a consideration of the contribution of the women to the economic, social, and intellectual life of Upper Palaeolithic society, and an in-depth examination of their likely role in that society against the environmental background of the last phase of the European Ice Ages. The assumption that they did not participate at all in certain activities such as hunting, tool-making and art is challenged, and a more balanced interpretation is discussed and developed. In particular, the still generally-accepted theory that there was strict sexual division of labour in this period is scrutinised and questioned.

The results of the study suggest that many conclusions long accepted about the lifestyles and roles of Upper Palaeolithic women have emanated from the cultural assumptions of 19th and 20th century Western society. In the light of the

evidence it seems much more likely that in Upper Palaeolithic Europe, society was firmly founded on co-operation and complementarity between men and women, and on the sharing of daily tasks according to opportunity, ability and personal preference.

Ann Williams, Land and Lake: Taupo Maori Economy to 1860. 1988. Anthropology Department, Auckland University. 1 page abstract; xi 216(18) pp., 3 plates, 5 figures, 1 table, 5 maps.

During the late 1830s, 1840s, and the 1850s, a large number of European travellers passed through the Lake Taupo district. Many recorded their impressions and experiences in diaries and journals with the result that a wealth of literature exists concerning the district's early historic period. Later ethnohistoric writers used these texts, as well as their own observations, to write about aspects of past Taupo Maori society, politics and economy. In addition, much contemporary literature has been produced dealing with the ecological and environmental characteristics of the lake and its hinterlands. A small amount of excavation archaeology and a large amount of site surveying have been conducted within the district.

This thesis is the first attempt to draw all of the above material together. Here the synthesised data is analysed in an effort to understand the Taupo Maori economy of the prehistoric period through to around 1860. Information concerning basic environmental and ecological factors is presented in order to provide the background and context for subsequent discussions. The role of a variety of local resources within the diet is investigated, and a general emphasis on land-based consumables seems indicated. A scenario arguing in favour of prehistoric Maori horticulture around Taupo is established, disputing the idea that such activity was impossible over the entire district. The arrival of European crops and livestock has been investigated and the introduction of the potato was found to have had a significant impact upon the Taupo Maori economy.